

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claim 19.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 12, 14, 17, 20, 21 and 23 as shown below.

Please add new claims 29 and 30 as shown below.

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A system for monitoring usage of an electronic device comprising:

a client component installed in a client device, said client component including a profile builder to generate a monitoring profile using a profile database, said client component being operative to monitor usage of said client device in accordance with [[a]] the monitoring profile and to generate corresponding usage data; and

a server component including the profile database, the server component being installed on a server device in communication with said client device, for providing said monitoring profile to said client device and for receiving said usage data from said client device;

wherein said monitoring profile includes information specifying which application programs, and which features of said application programs, installed on said client device are to be monitored by said client component.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 further including a data management component disposed to store said monitoring profile and to store said usage data provided to said server device.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[3]] 1 further including a profile management component for creating said monitoring profile, said monitoring profile including a plurality of application profiles each associated with one of said application programs.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1 further including a data analysis component for, based upon said usage data, determining usage statistics associated with application programs installed on said client device, wherein said usage statistics include measurements of usage time, number of uses, and sequence of usage of specified one of said application programs.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 further including a profile management component for creating and editing said monitoring profile, said monitoring profile specifying which application programs installed on said client device are to be monitored and a frequency with which said usage data is to be reported to said server component.

7. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[5]] 6 wherein said profile management component allows for definition of a set of users of said client device to be monitored in accordance with said monitoring profile.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said client component includes a client monitoring agent for collecting said usage data in accordance with said monitoring profile and for providing said usage data to said server component, said client component further including a client service for requesting said monitoring profile from said server component and for starting said client monitoring agent upon receipt of said monitoring profile from said server component.

9. (Currently amended) A system for monitoring computer usage comprising:
a plurality of client components installed on a corresponding plurality of client computers, each said client component including a profile builder to generate a monitoring profile using a profile database said client computers being operative to monitor usage of one of said client computers in accordance with a monitoring profile and to generate corresponding usage data; and

a server component, installed on a server computer in communication with said plurality of client computers, for providing said monitoring profiles to said client components and for receiving said usage data from each of said client components;

wherein each said monitoring profile includes information specifying which application programs, and which features of said application programs, installed on a corresponding one of said client computers are to be monitored.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 further including a data management component disposed to store said monitoring profiles and to store said usage data provided to said server component from each of said client components.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 10 further including a profile management component for creating each of said monitoring profiles such that each of said monitoring profile includes a plurality of application profiles, each of said application profiles associated with one of said application programs.

13. (Original) The system of claim 9 further including a profile management component for creating each of said monitoring profiles and for specifying which of said monitoring profiles will be applicable to usage of said client computers by particular users.

14. (Currently amended) A method for monitoring computer usage comprising the steps of

generating monitoring profiles for one or more client computers;

using the monitoring profile, monitoring usage of each of a plurality of client computers of the one or more client computers in accordance with an associated monitoring profile, wherein each said monitoring profile includes information specifying which application programs, and which features of said application programs, installed on a corresponding one of said computers are to be monitored;

generating usage data based on said monitoring and providing said usage data to a server computer; and

transmitting said monitoring profiles to said client components from said server computer.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 further including the step of storing said monitoring profiles remote from said client computers, and the step of storing said usage data provided to said server component from each of said client computers.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[16]]~~ 14 further including the step of creating each of said monitoring profiles such that each of said monitoring profiles includes a plurality of application profiles, each of said application profiles being associated with one of said associated application programs.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14 further including the step of associating each user of one or more of said client computers with one of said monitoring profiles.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[16]]~~ 14 further including the step of monitoring usage statistics for specified features of said application programs via predefined application programming interfaces of said application programs.

21. (Currently amended) A method for monitoring user interaction with an application executing on a client device, said application being downloaded to said client device from a remote location, said method comprising the steps of:

embedding a reference to a collection agent within said application;

resolving said reference and installing said collection agent on said client device;

generating a monitoring profile for the client device using a profile database at the remote location;

monitoring usage of said client device in accordance with ~~[[a]]~~ the monitoring profile and generating corresponding usage data, wherein ~~[[each]]~~ said monitoring profile includes information specifying which application programs, and which features of said application programs, installed on ~~a corresponding one of said client computers~~ device are to be monitored; and

transmitting, from a monitoring location, said monitoring profile to said collection agent and receiving said usage data at said monitoring location.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for restricting computer usage comprising the steps of generating a monitoring profile which identifies prohibited usage of a client computer; transmitting said monitoring profile to said client computer from a server computer; and disabling, in accordance with said monitoring profile, at least certain functionality of an application program executing on said client computer.

23. (Currently amended) A method for providing assistance to a user of an application program executing on a client computer, said method comprising the steps of:

using a profile database, generating a monitoring profile which is associated with the user, the application program or both;

monitoring user interaction with said application program in accordance with ~~[[an]]~~ the associated monitoring profile, wherein said monitoring profile includes information specifying which application programs, and which features of said application ~~programs~~ program, installed on ~~a corresponding one of said client computers~~ computer are to be monitored;

generating usage data based upon said monitoring; and
recommending to said user further interaction with said application on the basis of said usage data.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 further including the step of automatically performing operations to effect said further interaction.

25-28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein said client component includes means for monitoring usage statistics for specified features of said application programs via predefined application programming interfaces of said application programs.

30. (New) A method for monitoring user interaction with an application executing on a client device, said application being downloaded to said client device from a remote location, said method comprising the steps of:

- determining if secure protocol is used for communication between the client device and the remote location;

- embedding a reference to a collection agent within said application;

- if secure protocol is used, adjusting the collection agent to use secure protocol, otherwise using unsecure protocol;

- resolving said reference and installing said collection agent on said client device;

- monitoring usage of said client device in accordance with a monitoring profile and generating corresponding usage data, wherein said monitoring profile includes information specifying which application programs, and which features of said application programs, installed on said client device are to be monitored; and

- using either secure protocol or unsecure protocol as appropriate, transmitting, from a monitoring location, said monitoring profile to said collection agent and receiving said usage data at said monitoring location.